

**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated June 29, 2004 has been carefully considered. In response to the Office Action, Applicant has amended the application. Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the foregoing Amendment and following remarks and then pass the application to allowance.

Drawing Corrections

The drawing figures have been corrected in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Specifically, Figure 2A has been amended to include the legend -- Prior Art --. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been introduced. Approval of the correction is respectfully requested.

Pending Claims

Claims 1-7 and 10 -27 are pending. Claims 8 and 9 have been cancelled by the present Amendment.

Art Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-20, and 23, 24, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Evans et al. (WO 01/44918 A1).

By the present Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 18, 19 and 26 to recite the novel and unobvious aspects of the present invention. Namely, that the notification object is collapsible by the user. Independent claim 1 describes a method for notifying a computer user of a computer information message. The method comprises determining if a condition associated with a received action requires generation of an information message. Next, the information message is selected that corresponds the condition. A target object associated with the action performed by the user is identified. Next a collapsible

notification object is displayed. The notification object indicates the target object and contains the information message corresponding to the condition. The notification object is displayed in a persistent manner until it is dismissed or collapsed by the user thereby enabling the user to continue interaction with the application program corresponding to the target. Independent claims 18, 19 and 26 have been amended to recite the similar limitation that the notification object is collapsible by the user.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 18, 19 and 26 are not anticipated by Evans because the reference does not teach or suggest having a notification object that is collapsible by the user. As understood, Evans discloses a an error balloon 118 with error information 116 that is displayed upon the occurrence of an error event. Evans discloses that the error balloon 118 is automatically deactivated (i.e., disappears) when the user satisfies the condition. For example, on page 7, lines 22-25 and page 8, lines 1 and 2, it is described that the error balloon 118 is automatically deactivated when the user begins to retype their password. "Thus, there is no need for the user to acknowledge or otherwise shutdown a separate error window". (Evans, page 7, lines 23-24). Accordingly, Evans discloses the only way that the error balloon 118 to be removed is automatically when the user retypes their password. As such Evans does not disclose the user having the ability to collapse the error balloon 118.

As recited in independent claims 1, 18, 19 and 26, the user has the ability to collapse the notification object if needed. In this regard, the user can "minimize" the size of the notification object even without satisfying the condition. This is advantageous for when the user does not want to satisfy the condition at that moment, but still wants to continue with the application. On the other hand, Evans

does not teach or suggest being able to collapse the error balloon 118. The only way to remove the error balloon 118 is to satisfy the condition such that the error balloon 118 is automatically deactivated. According, Evans does not disclose the ability to deactivate the error balloon if needed. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7 and 10-27 are in condition for allowance because Evans does not disclose all of the claimed elements.

Art rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of Webb (Pub. No. US 2003/0011639). Furthermore, claims 6, 21, 22, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of Wishoff (Pub. No. US 2002/0051017).

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are overcome by the amendments to the independent claims. Specifically, as shown above, Evans does not teach or suggest the claim elements as stated in the rejection. Accordingly, it is improper to combine Evans with either Webb or Wishoff to reject claims 2, 6, 21, 22 and 25 as stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 6, 21, 22 and 25 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the preceding discussion, Applicant respectfully urges that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 29, 2004

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2A whereby the figure is labeled as --PRIOR ART--. This sheet, which includes Figs. 2 and 2A, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2A.